

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 3 3a schematically shows a cross-sectional view of a marker structure from the prior art in copper-damascene layers;

**REMARKS**

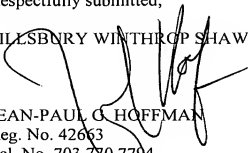
In this Amendment, no claims have been amended, cancelled or newly added. Claims 1-22, 24-30 and 34-41 are pending in this application. Applicant acknowledges that claims 31-33, which were withdrawn from examination due to a previous restriction requirement, have been cancelled by the Examiner.

As discussed above, the specification has been amended, beginning at page 10, line 13, to amend "Figure 3" to "Figure 3A--". Further, two (2) replacement sheets of drawings are attached herewith for Figures 1-4, which have labeled Figures 2 and 3a as "prior art."

In view of the foregoing the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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